

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT NO

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TOPIC Military Information on the Kindel Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 25 August to 15 September 1952

DATE PREPARED 14 October 1952

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to late August 1952, [ ] about 15,000 Soviet troops at the Kindel troop training grounds from Grossen Lupnitz to the Hainaer Holz (woods) cantonment via Haina. This is about half the personnel strength observed in 1950 and 1951. The Soviet generally refer to the Hainaer Holz cantonment as "Camp Merseburg", because most of the units quartered there are from Merseburg. Camp Kindel is rumored to quarter troops from Naumburg and Camp Kuenkelhof units from Weisschfels. While up to six generals were seen in the latter camp in previous years, only two were noticed this year.
  2. About 25 rocket launchers were seen at the Hainaer Holz camp just west of the road block, west of Haina, and 20 x 100-mm AT guns in addition to 25 field howitzers were observed in a vehicle parking lot northwest of the road block. West of this area, east of the multiple road junction southwest of Wolfsbehringen, there were several temporary buildings among a patch of birch trees, north of the camp road to Haina. Several generals and field grade officers were billeted there. The units from Halle previously quartered at the Hainaer Holz camp did not come to the troop training grounds this year.
  3. At least three JS-3 tanks were seen at Camp Kuenkelhof, whose temporary quartering was located south of Highway No 84. Northeast of this camp and north of Camp Kindel, there is a field, on which an infantry regiment and 20 to 25 tanks were practicing an attack on 25 August. The infantry followed the attacking tanks, which laid smoke screens.
  4. The troops stationed at the troop training grounds usually trained from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Physical training was particularly intensive this year. Infantry training was also given with troops primarily wearing gas masks. Once an entire regiment was seen on a 10-km forced march in platoons with gas masks on. Hardly any alcohol was issued to the soldiers this year. [ ] that 10 short-crop haircuts as prescribed for recruits were given in the barber shops of the camp.\*
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5. During the period from 9 to 15 September 1952, the Hainser Holz camp at the Kindel troop training grounds was occupied to capacity. No large exercises were observed. Mostly training in firing was given. Units observed were in the strength of 200 men at most. During the period of observation, Camps Kuenkelhof and Kindel on Highway 84 were occupied only lightly. Only 30 percent of the windows of quartering buildings in the latter two camps were lighted at darkness. On 12 September, 15 x 85-mm AA guns were observed firing at dummy targets south of the Huetscheroda estate. [redacted] no live ammunition was used for these practices. [redacted]
- [redacted]

6. From 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. on 4 September, 16 trucks, 15 of which were loaded with pontoons, were being entrained at the Eisenach freight station. The train left toward Gotha. \*\*
- [redacted]

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